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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/828,616	04/06/2001	J. Robert Hitchings	JPM-007	5849
70813	7590	12/01/2008	EXAMINER	
GOODWIN PROCTER LLP			FELTEN, DANIEL S	
901 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.				
WASHINGTON, DC 20001			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3696	
			NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			12/01/2008	ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

AAlpha-Kpetewama@goodwinprocter.com  
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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/828,616	HITCHINGS ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	DANIEL S. FELTEN	3696	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7/21/2008.

2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3,5-14,16-19,21-23 and 27-37 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-14,16-19,21-23 and 27-37 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

## **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Receipt of the amendment filed 7/21/2008 amending claims 1-3 and 16-37 is acknowledged. Claims 1-37 are pending in the application and are presented to be examined upon their merits.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 7/21/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant asserts that Himmelstein does disclose relinquished or acquired assets and also a first tracking record comprising data reflecting the relinquishment of at least one asset. The Examiner disagrees. Himmelstein suggests that his system can be configured to effectuate a tax deferred exchange (see column 21, lines 43-47). Although it is understood under the Section 1031 that stocks, bonds and notes are excluded from like-kind exchanges, Himmelstein's system can also be used to barter for relinquished and/or acquired assets like real estate (see column 25, line32-34). Thus the rejections using Himmelstein are maintained.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-19, 21-23, 27-37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Himmelstein in view of IRS code 1031  
<http://ftp.irs.gov/newsroom/article/> and the applicant's Background of the invention.  
Himmelstein has been previously discussed. The IRS Section 1031 discloses what a like-kind exchange is, defining relinquished and acquired assets etc., Both Section 1031 and the applicant's background discuss the need of an qualified intermediary to be able to account for like-kind exchanges. Himmelstein discloses an computerized intermediary in (fig. 7B-E, see column 18, lines 48 to column 19, line 40). One of ordinary skill in the art at would have found it obvious to provide Himmelstein with the relinquished and acquired assets as found in section 1031, in order to gain the commonly understood benefits of such adaptation, such as more efficient and reliable data management. This would be accomplished with no unpredictable results. As stated in *Leapfrog*, "applying modern electronics to older mechanical devices has been commonplace for years."  
(*Leapfrog Enterprises, Inc. v. Fisher-Price*, 485 F.3d 1157, 82USPQ2d 1687 (Fed. Cir 2007)).

### ***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DANIEL S. FELTEN whose telephone number is (571)272-6742. The examiner can normally be reached on Flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Dixon can be reached on (571) 272-6803. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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